THE
ROMAN FORUM

THE GREATEST SMALL SPOT ON EARTH

Engraving by Rossini

THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS ROME

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TO MY AUNT

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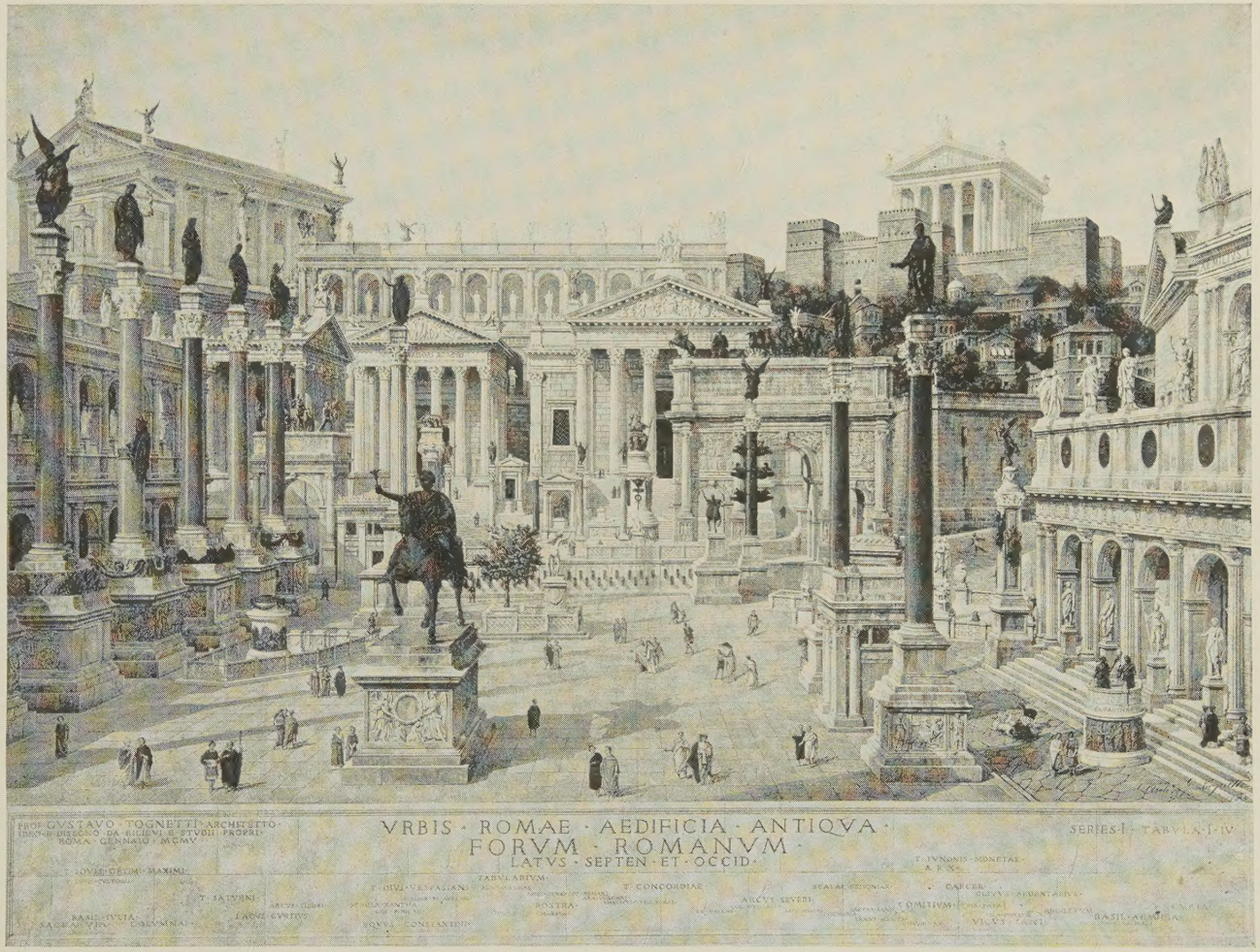


Restoration by G. Tognetti

THE ROMAN FORUM TOWARD THE CAPITOLINE

IN THE THIRD CENTURY A. D.

The equestrian statue of Constantine faces the reader. Before the Basilica Aemilia, at the right, is the round shrine of Venus Cloacina. The Duilius column with its six beaks is in front of the arch of Septimius Severus, behind which, to the left, can be seen three of the columns of the temple of Concord. To its left are the temples of Vespasian and of Saturn. Behind the five columns is the Basilica of Julius Caesar and before two of them is the Lacus Curtius inside a marble fence. The Rostra with its two rows of *rostra* (beaks) closes the lower background. On the Capitoline hill rise the temples of Jupiter, left, and Juno, right.

THE ROMAN FORUM

THE west coast line of Italy is not where it used to be. In fact the Crown of Italy owes considerable of its wealth to the new land made by the silt which is pushed by various streams into the Mediterranean. It was only a few hundred years ago that Michelangelo built a tower west of Rome on the very eyebrow of the Mediterranean sea(*in ipso supercilio maris*). Now that tower is over a mile from the shore. Several hundred years B.C. Rome built Ostia as its seaport near the mouth of the Tiber river. Now Ostia is three miles from the sea. Indeed, if we go back far enough in geologic time we do not find land even where Rome now is, eleven miles or more up the Tiber from Ostia, and fourteen miles from the Mediterranean shore.

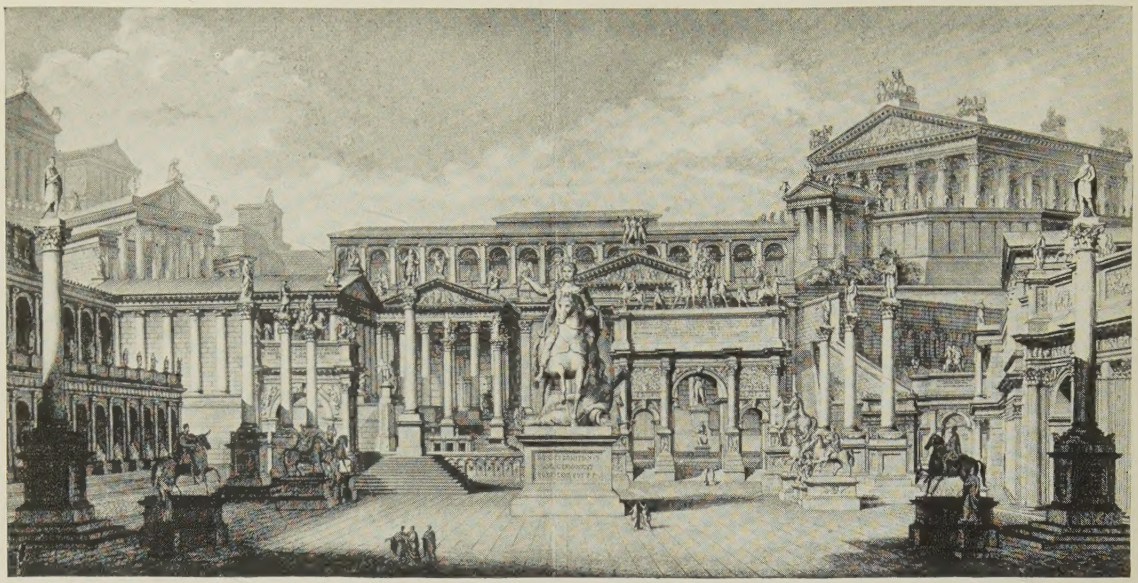
Thousands of years ago the sea covered the most of what we nowadays call the Roman Campagna. Its swells lapped the feet of the Sabine mountains when Zephyrus blew gently from the west. But the rain and the melting snow slid silt and rocks softly out of the hills through many such valleys as those through which the Tiber now comes and as those back of Tivoli and Palestrina. The sea thus became slowly shallower. Suddenly, however, a succession of volcanic eruptions shook that western side of Italy. Perhaps the whole coast was raised somewhat; certainly great showers of ashes fell over many miles of shallow Mediterranean, and so heavily, that they drove the sea scurrying westward, and lo! a plain appeared. Its soil was volcanic ash. That is what it still is today, although we call it tuff or tufa. Other showers of ashes fell in heaps, sometimes in circular form, sometimes in single mounts.

Down from the northeast came a river worming its way through the ashy plain. At one place it struck against the north end of a long, high ridge and turned south in a great bend and then swept on westward to the sea. That ridge, on the right bank of the Tiber, is known today as Monte Mario, the Vatican hill, and the Janiculum. Here, on the left bank of the river there were also several hills. The poet Spenser said of them:

"But I will sing above all moniments
Seven Romane hils, the world's seven Wonderments."

WHERE THE ROMAN FORUM BEGAN

Several small streams drained through these Seven Hills into the Tiber. The largest of them was the overflow of a lake that had formed in the pocket between three of the hills, which came later to be called the Palatine, the Quirinal, and the Capitoline; the lake covered a small area which, after the water was drained off, became the Roman Forum, the Greatest Small Spot on Earth. Here in this tiny pocket between three tufa hills on the left bank of the Tiber some ten or twelve miles from the sea, a village marketplace slowly grew to be the greatest city in the world. Here in this Forum area centered the administrative authority which controlled the first World Empire to its farthest flung frontier; here beat the heart of the governmental organism which sent life blood through those great arteries



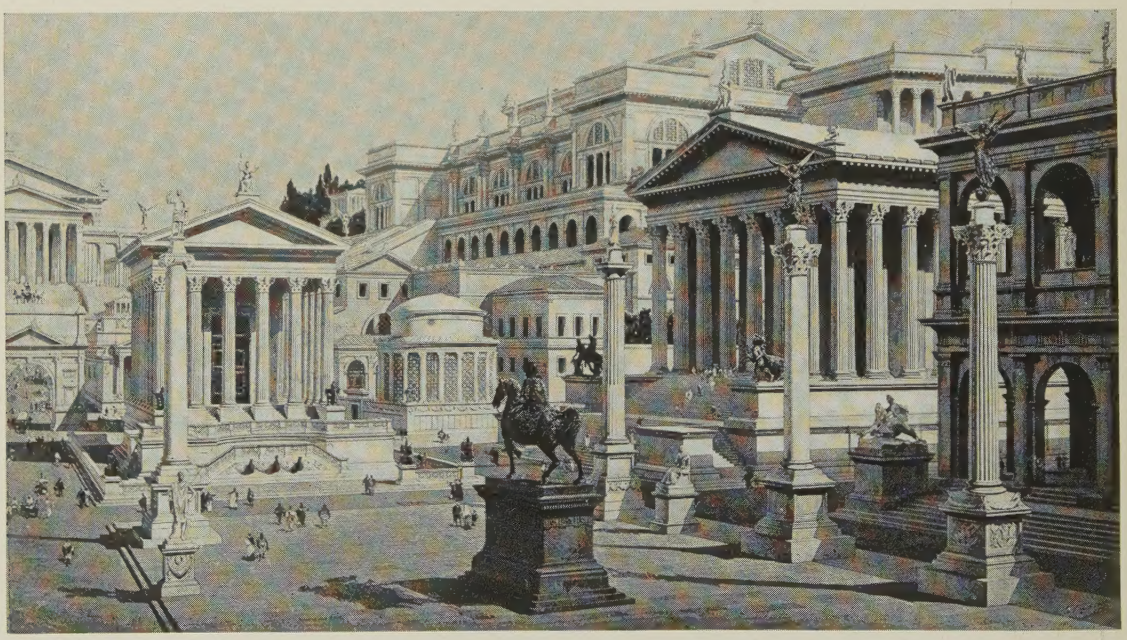
Restoration by Canina, 1845

THE WEST END OF THE ROMAN FORUM

AS IT WAS ABOUT 200 A. D.

Left to right: Basilica of Julius Caesar; above, the temple of Jupiter; temple of Saturn, from the side; behind columns on stepped base is the temple of Vespasian; behind the triple gated arch of Severus rises the pediment of the temple of Concord; above these temples is the Tabularium. The temple of Juno rises at the right; at the extreme right is the corner of the Basilica Aemilia.

The equestrian statue of Domitian in the foreground was torn down by order of the Senate in 96 A. D. It should not appear in this restoration.



Restoration by E. Becchetti

THE EAST END OF THE ROMAN FORUM

AS IT WAS ABOUT 200 A. D.

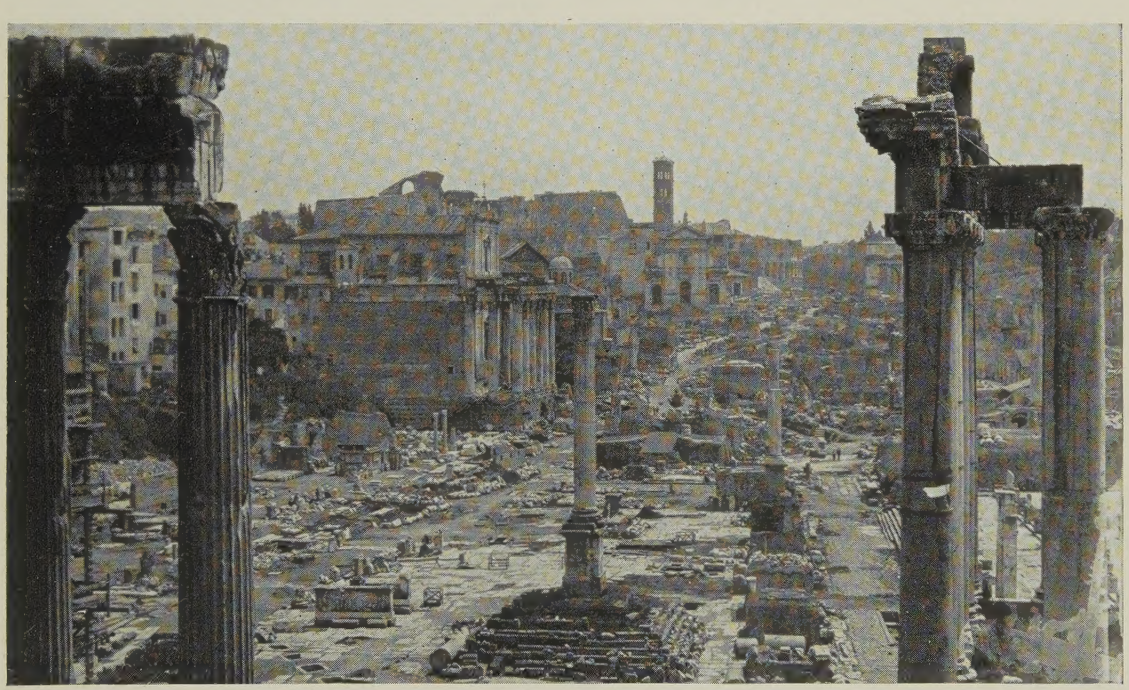
Left to right: Double temple of Venus and Rome; temple of the deified Julius Caesar; round temple of Vesta; house of the Vestals, above which is the imperial palace on the Palatine; temple of Castor; Basilica Julia.

The equestrian statue and the four honorary columns should not appear. The rest would be then a near approach to the truth. The two statuary pieces on the front of the temple of Castor are now in front of the royal palace on the Quirinal. Castor and Pollux with the horses may have occupied these positions in ancient times. The statues on the Quirinal today are probably not the original ones.

Photograph by Esther B. Van Deman, 1905

DOWN THE SACRED WAY—(THE WEST END OF THE ROMAN FORUM)

From a point on the Sacra Via near the arch of Titus we look down the Forum to the Tabularium with its one open archway, to the left of the top of the arch of Severus which in this picture is covered by scaffolding.



Photograph by Esther B. Van Deman

THE ROMAN FORUM IN 1902—VIEW TOWARDS THE EAST

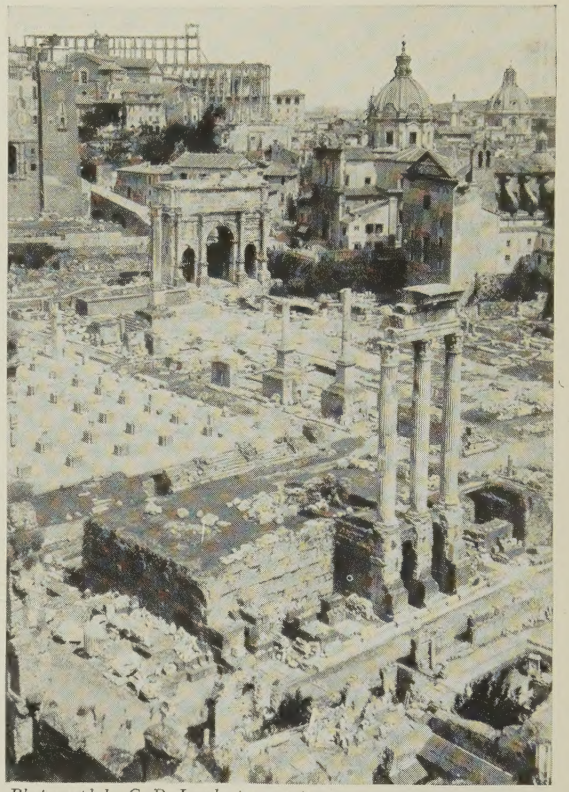
The reader is looking from the Tabularium between the corner columns of the temple of Vespasian, left, and the front columns of the temple of Saturn, right, with the latest monument in the Forum, the column of Phocas, in the central foreground, up the Forum toward the Colosseum. To the left of the colum of Phocas is the temple of Faustina and the square sloping roof at its right covers the spot where the body of Julius Caesar was burned on March 15, 44 B. C. The arch of Titus can be seen in front of the tops of the columns of the temple of Saturn. Beyond the church of S. Francesca Romana is the Colosseum.

of empire, that network of stone, concrete, and lava Roman roads, to its utmost confines. In the wake of tramping legions followed the arts of peace, and under the sway of imperial Rome, *Pax Romana* gave to the world its first taste of the benefits that come from surcease of war.

A thousand years Rome ruled the world from its Forum, snugly set amidst the Seven Hills, and from its palaces on the Palatine. Fifteen hundred years more have passed and the LAW that Rome developed still governs a large part of the modern world; its LITERATURE still sets standards for today; and the Roman Church, that gathered up the administrative reins as they were dropped by the Constantinople government, still today in the person of its Pontifex Maximus claims the religious fealty of at least a third of all Christendom.

The foundation on which the Roman Republic was laid, the centre round which gathered the nations of the earth, the heart which gave life blood to the great body of the Roman empire, and the brains that guided the world's destinies for so many centuries: here they all were, in this little pocket valley, 275 x 160 yards in extent.

It is no wonder that we call the Roman Forum the Greatest Small Spot on Earth.



Photograph by C. D. Lamberton, 1907

THE FORUM FROM THE PALATINE HILL

One looks from the corner of the imperial palace on the Palatine down upon the podium and three columns of the temple of Castor, across the corner of the Basilica Julia, over the Rostra, the Black Stone, and the arch of Severus to the church of Ara Coeli, which occupies the ancient site of the temple of Juno. Beyond the church is the wooden false work for the construction of the great altar of Modern Italy.

HOW ROME WAS BEGUN

Several groups of families, perhaps even a small tribe, of the southward trekking Itali, a branch of the Indo-Europeans, found on a hill near the Tiber river a suitable place to settle. That would have been somewhere between 1200 and 1500 B. C. The name of the hill came to be Quirinalis, and the Quirinal hill it has remained to this very day. Probably somewhat earlier another hill more to the south was settled, not by family groups but by unmarried men—the tradition that Evander was already there when Aeneas came, stands—who were a garrison sent by Alba Longa as a guard against marauders from across the river who had discovered a good ford where an island divided the Tiber into two narrow channels. These young men had their dwellings on the hill which soon came to be known as the Palatinus, and it too has kept its name to the present day as the Palatine hill.

The daughters of the Sabines on the Quirinal used to drive the cows and sheep and hogs down to the lake to drink, and it would be unnatural not to imagine that the young Romans—

for we may now call them such—were no longer than circumstances allowed in letting the Sabine girls know that they were very eager to make their acquaintance. The young Romans doubtless bought edibles from the Sabine market, and that they talked an Italic dialect not too different from that spoken by the Sabines to be understood, is almost as certain. They doubtless proposed to the Sabine elders for their daughters' hands in marriage, but for some reason failed to find favor in the eyes of the parents. This possibility lends some strength to the contention that these young Romans were masterless men, and not an official garrison sent down from the Alban Hills. The real reason, however, must have been a religious one, quite honestly and properly held by the Sabines in

Engraving by L. Rossini

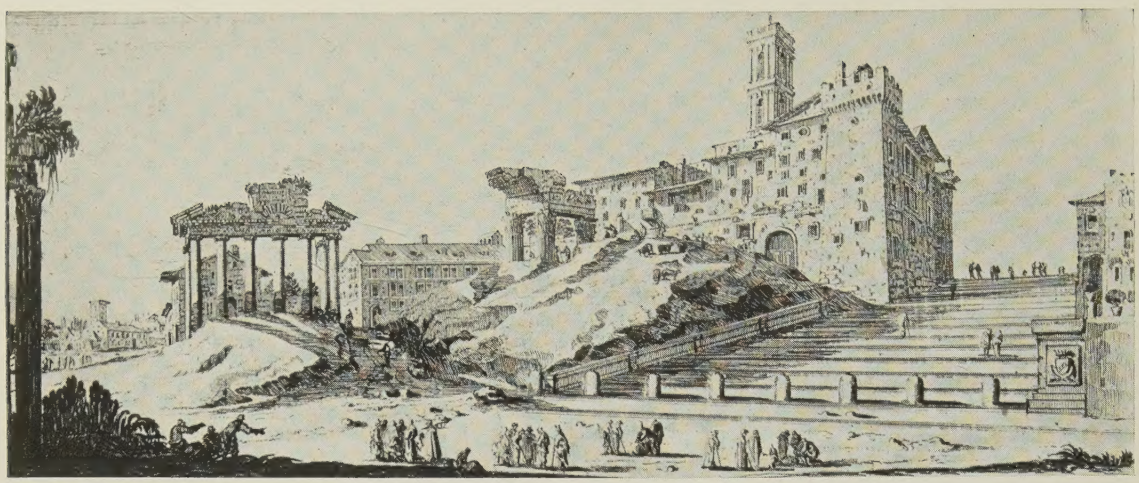
THE CAMPO VACCINO IN 1827

One looks down over the three columns of the temple of Castor to the arch of Septimius Severus. The three columns of the temple of Vespasian are at the extreme left. The reasons for calling the Roman Forum in 1827 the Cow Pasture (*Campo Vaccino*) are in numerous evidence.

Engraving by L. Rossini

THE ROMAN FORUM IN 1822

The five monuments at the Capitoline end of the Forum come out beautifully in this engraving. From left to right they are: the columned façade of the temple of Saturn, the memorial column of Phocas, the three columns of the temple of Vespasian, the ancient masonry of the Tabularium (in which three small windows are set), and the Arch of Septimius Severus.



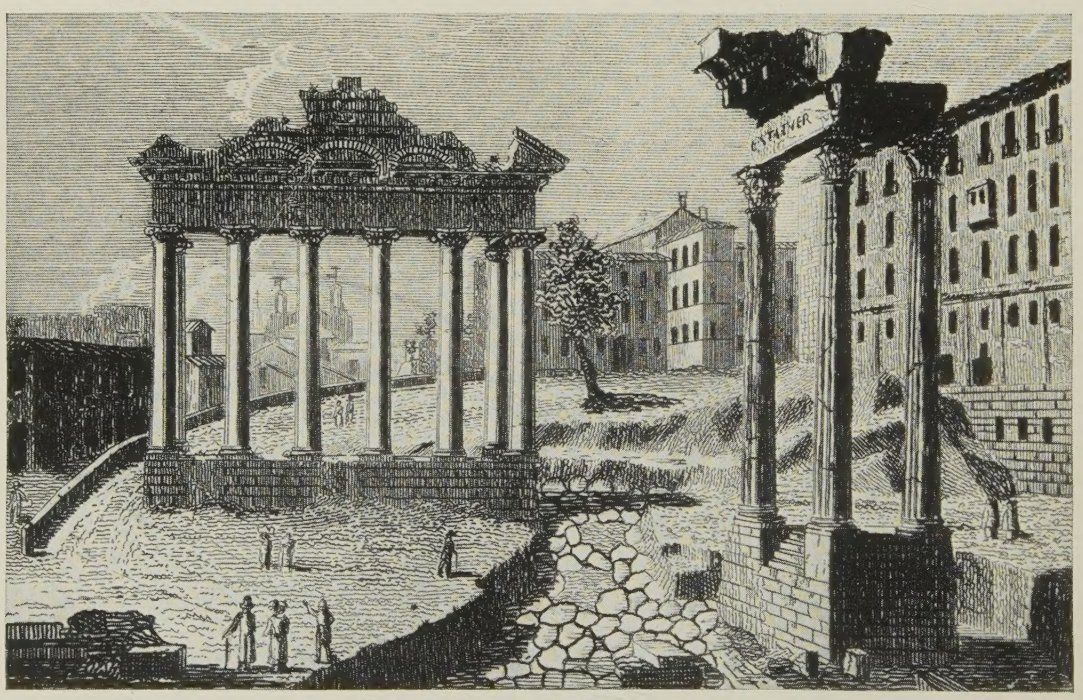
Engraving by J. Silvestre

THE ROMAN FORUM 1676

The year in which the Revolutionary War broke out the Roman Forum looked about as it had for several centuries of the Middle Ages. The columns of the temple of Saturn were partially covered, and the three columns of the temple of Vespasian barely peeped above the accumulated soil.

those early days of strict religious taboos.

At all events, from the refusal of the Sabine parents to bind their daughters with marriage ties to the Romans, comes the first real story of the Roman Forum. The eager swains put their heads together to some purpose. They got up a sort of athletic meet and jollification on the edge of the Forum lake, to which they invited the entire Sabine population of the Quirinal. Most of



THE ROMAN FORUM IN 1819

One faces the temple of Saturn with the columns of the temple of Vespasian at the right. The engraver calls these temples respectively those of Concord and of Jupiter Tonans, showing the poor state of topographic knowledge of the Roman Forum only a little more than a century ago.

them came. At a pre-arranged signal the athletic sports suddenly broke up in what from that day to this has always been called the "Rape of the Sabines." Each Roman seized upon the fair Sabiness of his choice, and carried her off up the slopes of the Palatine. There is in the story no hint that the girls offered any serious resistance. It will be safer perhaps to say that they were either too polite to raise any outcry, or too surprised to make much of a struggle. Before their fathers could recover from their surprise at the undignified disappearance of their daughters, the Romans were up the Palatine and safe behind their defences. But some time later the bad feeling thus aroused was about to come to a head between the Sabine and the Roman warriors. As the battle was on the point of being joined, the lately lost daughters and newly won wives rushed in between the opposing battle lines and by their entreaties succeeded in reconciling their Sabine fathers and Roman husbands, who thereupon or soon thereafter struck a treaty, joined forces and communities, made the Capitoline hill their common fortress, and began to drain off the lake from the pocket below their, now three, hills. Where the lake had been, there was soon a common grazing pasture. On the slopes of the hills there were already several holy shrines to certain gods, but business soon claimed a place, and here and there appeared a flower or a meat or a vegetable market. The Roman Forum had begun.

"Hic ubi nunc fora sunt, udae tenuere paludes;
Nunc solida est tellus, sed lacus ante fuit."
(Ovid, *Fasti* VI, 401 ff.)

Here where the Forum now is, a swampy morass spread its waters;
Now there is all solid ground, right where a lake used to be.

The Forum grew so naturally into its commanding position, after the

TEMPLE OF DIVVS IVLIVS CAESAR

This restoration of the temple built after Caesar's death shows ships' beaks in front of the porch. They were put in to rival the Rostra at the other end of the Forum. Here the speakers of the Republican party spoke against those who belonged more to the Senatorial party who used the old Rostra in front of the Comitium.

Julius Caesar's body was burnt where the semicircular apse is left in the platform. (See page 23.)

combination of the Romans and Sabines into a single community, that there was nothing wonderful about it. The two communities living on the Quirinal and the Palatine drove their animals down to the lake along the roads that led from gates in the rude walls of their settlements. Due to an immemorial custom neither community buried its dead inside the city walls, but along the sides of the roads, beginning probably just outside the gates. The women and girls went down to various springs to fetch water for their households. Shrines to local deities were established on the hill slopes toward the lake and marsh. Wooden shops and market booths were built as trade grew. The people stood on the slopes of the hills or on the roofs of the market stalls to watch athletic games which were held on the days of re-

ligious festivals, or at the funeral ceremonies of prominent people. There was nothing much in the Forum area that was supernatural, and little that was even out of the ordinary.

THE NEW FORUM AFTER THE FIRE

After the Gauls burnt Rome in 387 B. C. (390 is the date commonly given), there were, as is usual after a fire, both opportunity and incentive to rebuild in a better way. But we may be sure that the first thing the Romans did was to take very careful stock of themselves religiously. They were convinced that something was the matter or they would not have met such a defeat as that of the Allia, or have had the disgrace of having the capture and burning of their city to face. So there was diligent inquiry into the religious standing of all spots in the Forum hallowed by use, by association, or by tradition.

There seemed to be no question about the sanctity of the "Place of Meeting," the Comitium, not far from the southeast foot of the Capitoline. Here was the place where the Roman Romulus and the Sabine Titus Tatius had struck the treaty of peace between their peoples after the successful intervention of the Sabine women. This should be the political centre of their combined communities. It was so maintained, and here inside the space carefully marked off the early voting was done. Later, the senate house, or *Curia*, was built inside this sacred space, and there its successor, rebuilt by Diocletian, still stands, transformed in the seventh

THE TEMPLES OF SATURN AND VESPASIAN

At the right stand three corner columns of the temple of Vespasian, who was acclaimed emperor by his troops in 69 A. D. while he was conducting a war in Judaea. Beneath the temple of Saturn was the treasury where Octavian looked for the millions left by Julius Caesar. Some historians believe the other consul, Mark Antony, drew the money and spent it. In the foreground, below the ivy, is part of the round base of the famous Golden Milestone which had inscribed on it distances from Rome along the radiating roads, counting from the gates in the old Servian wall.

Painting by Ghirlandaio

THE RAPE OF THE SABINES

This painting in the Colonna Gallery is an amusingly inept rendition of this famous—some say fabled—method employed by the young Romans in those early days of the Roman Forum to get wives for themselves. The topography is inaccurate and the buildings belong hundreds of years, (perhaps a thousand) later than the pictured event. But the idea is quite unmistakable. (See page 7.)

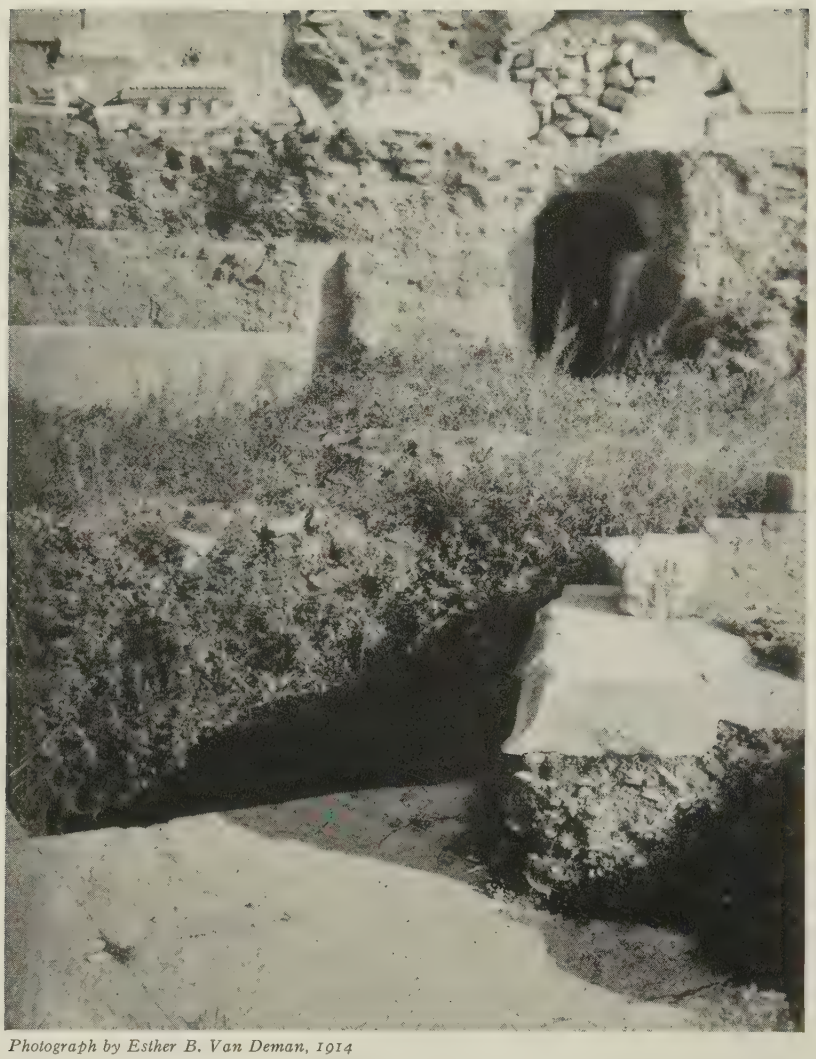
century A. D. to the church of St. Hadrian (S. Adriano).

Inside the area of the Comitium there is a building, the two stories of which are below the ground level. Its great antiquity is a matter of dispute. It is, however, one of the most interesting things in the Roman Forum. Its present name is the Mamertine Prison, although that designation does not belong to classic times. One descends first into what Romans used as a detention prison. Below that is a smaller room which was in historic

Painting by C. Roselli

RECONCILIATION OF SABINES AND ROMANS

With a superb disregard of topography and history, the medieval painter has given his interpretation of a famous episode in the earliest history of the Roman Forum. The story depicted happened before 700 B. C., but Rosselli has given it a background of the Cestius pyramid of Repulican date, the Flavian Amphitheatre and an arch of imperial date, and a medieval fortress. The Colosseum is on a scale very much too small.



Photograph by Esther B. Van Deman, 1914

FORUM LEVELS

In front of the Curia it is possible to see the several distinct levels of the Roman Forum. Sulla, Julius Caesar, Augustus, and others laid new pavements as the forum level rose. From the beautifully laid pavement of travertine at the bottom one can count five more levels up to that on which rest several pieces of marble architectural fragments.

Roman times a dungeon, where some of Rome's most outstanding enemies were executed, among whom the best known are Jugurtha of Numidia, Vercingetorix of Gaul, Caesar's most dangerous opponent and the early great hero of France, and the associates of Catiline. It was also in this dungeon that the apostle Peter, according to Christian legend, was kept, and the spring which is in the floor is said to have been called forth miraculously by the apostle in order that he might have water to baptize his jailers. The more common belief that the spring was the early source of water for the citadel on the Capitol hill is probably the correct one. It may well be that there was a spring in a cave at the foot of the Capitol hill, and that when the citizens of the enlarged Rome decided to make the Capitol their main fortress, they quarried stone for the wall from the hill itself. Good sense would have dictated that the citadel must have a supply of water. What better

plan could have been devised than to block up the Forum entrance to the spring cave and direct the quarrying in such fashion as to open a subpetrine passage from the cave to some point inside the citadel wall? There is just such an arrangement out in the Alban Hills at the ancient city of Tusculum, on the high point three miles south of Frascati.

THE BLACK STONE

Just in front of the Comitium area there was a very sacred spot. One Roman antiquarian writer mentions a black stone at a place where Romulus was to have been buried, but says his foster father Faustulus had been buried there instead. Others say that the father of King Hostilius was buried there, and one writer adds that an inscribed memorial stone, or *stele*, was erected in his honor. Others say that a carved lion, or two lions, were placed beside the grave of Romulus. Clearly the antiquarians of the time of Augustus and earlier, were in the dark about this particular sacred spot.

It is not difficult to understand why modern Rome and Roman archaeologists became excited when, on January 10, 1899, a pavement of black marble blocks—not a single black stone, as one often reads,—was uncovered on the boundary between the Comitium and the Forum. It was on the same level as the forum of the time of Augustus. But five feet lower there was found a group of monuments that went back to very early times. Between two tufa bases, on which lions

Photograph by Esther B. Van Deman

THE UNEXPECTED SEWER

When Augustus rebuilt the Basilica Julia the foundations were laid on top of the pavement of Sulla. Under the steps of the basilica he built a drain, which was at once covered and is now no longer visible. Near the arch of Titus, and about midway between the three columns of the temple of Castor and the campanile tower of the church of S. Francesca Romana, as seen in the picture, stood for some years the statue of Nero as the Sun-god, towering as high as the top of the church tower.

Photograph by G. R. Swain *Courtesy of University of Michigan Near East Expedition*

ACROSS THE FORUM TO THE PALATINE

This mass of ruins is an open book to the archaeologist. Under the sloping roof in the right foreground is where the body of Julius Caesar was burned. Beyond it are the ruins of the so-called temple and library of Augustus, in which was ensconced the church of S. Maria Antiqua. The photograph shown on page 4, was taken from the uppermost corner of the Palatine under the trees.

Photograph by Esther B. Van Deman, 1905

A CORNER OF THE ROMAN FORUM

At the foot of the northeastern corner of the Palatine hill is an ancient well-curb, up through which water was drawn from one of the springs of Juturna. In the middle ages an altar was placed by the curb. The ropes by which the water was pulled up have made deep cuts in both curb and altar. (See pages 15–16.)

From a painting in the Doria Gallery, Rome

THE FORUM IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

The painter has crowded his monuments much closer than they were in reality, but he has caught in striking fashion the animal pasture in the ruins of the Forum.

Engraving by L. Rossini

UP THE FORUM IN 1821

The monuments from left to right are: the Arch of Septimius Severus, the columned front of the temple of Faustina as porch to the church of S. Lorenzo in Miranda. The column of Phocas stands against the centre of the arch of Titus. The three partly buried columns of the temple of Castor, the three columns of Vespasian's temple, and part of the columns of the front of the temple of Saturn are next in order.

Photograph by Esther B. Van Deman, 1903

FROM FORUM TO TIBER

The arching tufa construction in the foreground is the top of the main sewer (Cloaca Maxima) which was once a small stream that ran through the Roman Forum and drained off the earlier lake into the Tiber river. It was covered during the regal period of the Etruscans. The tufa covering here seen is the work of Augustus. It has been covered and is now no longer visible.

Engraving by L. Rossini, 1829

FROM TIBER TO FORUM

The provincial or foreigner who came to imperial Rome via Ostia and the Tiber would have been even more amazed than a stranger today who enters New York harbor. He would have passed between the steeply scarped Tarpeian rock of the Capitoline on his left, and the towering palaces of the Palatine on his right.

couchant might well have been, was a small block on which something very sacred must once have rested. Perhaps it was the "Black Stone" itself, which in all probability was a meteorite. About a foot away was found part of a round column of tufa, and beyond it a rectangular inscribed *stele*, of which about the lower third remains. Its inscription reads alternately up one line and down the next and is in a very archaic alphabet. Only three or four words have been read satisfactorily. There is an enormous literature on this Black Stone find. The writer doubts if it could all be read in a year if the reader did nothing else.

This group of monuments had been destroyed, or nearly so, purposely, in ancient times. Perhaps the Gauls did it in 387 B. C. The Romans were afraid to touch it, it would seem, and covered it over, or marked it in some way as a sacred spot. Then in the time of Augustus (although it is put as late as the time of Romulus Augustulus), during one of those periodic epochs of the resanctification of the memorials of the past, a black pavement was laid over the sacred place. They missed it by several feet, for the present "Black Stone" is not directly over the ancient group of monuments five feet below, nor has it the same orientation.

THE LACUS CURTIUS

About forty yards from the Black Stone toward the Basilica of Julius Caesar is another spot which owed its sanctity to an event in the early history of the Forum. But when the Romans of the first century A. D. tried to fix the event and delimit the site, probably in connection with settling on the spot to erect the equestrian statue of Domitian, they found there were three events on each of which tradition and earlier literature had claims. One tradition was that in a battle between the Sabines and the Romans, the leader of the former, Mettus Curtius, had fallen into a deep hole in the lake or into a treacherous morass in the swamp, and had nearly lost his life. Another story, and the one which the Romans preferred to believe, was that the noble Marcus Curtius had leaped with his horse into an abyss that opened up in the middle of the Forum, in order to save his city by fulfilling a vow. But there was still a third well accredited story, namely, that a consul of the year 445 B. C. named Gaius Curtius had marked off the place at the order of the senate because lightning had struck there.

At all events, for what reason soever the Lacus Curtius had its name, it was a sacred place. An altar which stood there was of such importance that it was removed carefully when the gladiatorial games were given in the Forum at the time of Julius Caesar's funeral. Near by also grew a fig tree, seemingly the one near which was the statue of Marsyas of braggadocio musical fame.

Southward from the Lacus Curtius, there were, at the foot of the Palatine hill, some very fine springs of pure water, near which was a shrine where the goddess of springs, Juturna, had been worshipped from very ancient times. (See Frontispiece.)

JUTURNA AND THE HEAVENLY TWINS

One evening in the year 496 B. C. while people in the Forum were discussing anxiously the outcome of the battle against the allied Latins and Etruscans, two unknown horsemen suddenly appeared and announced that the Roman army had been victorious that very day out at Lake Regillus. Then, after watering their

Engraving by G. Vasi, 1753

ARCH OF SEVERUS AND TEMPLE OF SATURN FROM THE EAST

One should note that the side archways of the arch of Severus are walled up for use as dwellings. The small tree at the left, toward the columns of the temple of Saturn, is exactly over the spot where, nearly 20 feet down, the Golden Milestone was discovered.

Engraving by F. Piranesi, 1803

ARCH OF SEVERUS AND TEMPLE OF SATURN FROM THE WEST

The columns of the temple of Saturn are of granite, and date from a late restoration. The attic of the arch of Severus was used during part of the middle ages by robbers as their lair.

horses at the fountain of Juturna, the visitors suddenly disappeared. That story tallied so completely with what the soldiers said when they returned, namely, that two horsemen had suddenly appeared in their front rank and after helping them win the battle had miraculously disappeared, that there was no hesitation in recognizing the visitors as the Dioscuri, the heaven sent twins, Castor and Pollux.

A temple was vowed to them that same year. It has been known ever since as the Temple of Castor or of the Castors, but oddly enough never officially as the temple of Castor and Pollux, although Pollux was the divine, and Castor only the semi-divine twin. This temple was enlarged or restored several times. We read that it was still standing in the fourth century A. D. But the history of its destruction is not known. We do not hear of it again until about 60 years before Columbus discovered America. In some records of the time of Pope Eugene IV(1431-1447) there is mention of a street in this region called the 'Street of the Three Columns.' The most strikingly picturesque feature of the Roman Forum today are these same three columns carrying a piece of entablature on the lofty capitals that cap so beautifully the towering columns standing there in isolated majesty.

VESTA AND HER VESTALS

Near the Pool of Juturna there was a place where from very ancient times the goddess Vesta had been worshipped. She was one of the earliest of the Roman deities and one in whom they put great trust. Where her shrine was, there was soon a temple, which for some reason was circular in form. Inside it the Vestal Virgins kept the sacred fire burning all the time, day and night. It was renewed once each year, on the first day of the year as Numa set it, namely, the first of March. The Vestals lived near by, and their house, the Atrium Vestae, grew in size and interior adornment as the fame of their cult increased. They were the custodians of certain sacred objects kept in the temple. Among them the most famous was the palladium, which Aeneas was believed to have carried away from the burning Troy. On the other side of the temple, toward the later temple of Antoninus and Faustina, was the official house of the Pontifex Maximus, the Regia.

In ancient days it was the task of the daughters of a family to see that the fire on the hearth never went out, because it was not easy to start another fire. The girls did let it go out now and then, and we are sure they were punished severely when it happened. It is possible to make a certain deduction on that point. In historical times when the Vestal Virgin on duty let the fire in the temple go out she was beaten with rods by the Pontifex Maximus. He as chief priest of the state whipped the Vestals religiously considered as his daughters; just so in primitive times the father of the family whipped his daughter for the same offence.

The Regia is perhaps the building above all others in the Forum the loss of which historians and archaeologists most regret. After a fire in 36 B. C. it was restored in white marble and its outside walls were covered with a list of the consuls and of the triumphs from the time of Romulus to that of Caesar. What were found on August 15, 1546, of these lists, are preserved in the Conservatori Museum on the Capitoline Hill at Rome. For that reason the fragments are called the *Fasti Capitolini*. But the building and the rest of the Fasti disappeared within a month. Two eye witnesses,

Engraving published by Pompilio Tolti

THE ROMAN FORUM IN 1654

One of the most interesting of all the medieval views of the Roman Forum. The columns of the temple of Castor were probably not as far out of the ground as the artist has drawn them. On the other hand, the three bays of the Basilica of Constantine seem to be buried rather deeply, and they are also drawn under scale. The slope and orchard that cover the House of the Vestals and the foot of the Palatine at the right are noteworthy.

Panvinio and Ligorio, saw it go, and wrote about it.

With one exception, we have now considered the places in the Forum that had importance in early Rome before the Etruscans gained control of the government. Perhaps the strangest thing about this early Forum of the Romano-Sabine town is to find the Comitium, or political centre, at the Sabine end of the Forum, and the majority of the religious shrines at the Roman end. Romulus and his Romans were always recognized as the warriors, and Numa and his Sabines as the religious element in the new community. There is something more here in Forum history than has been solved, as yet.

THE AGE OF ROME QUITE UNKNOWN TO CAESAR, CICERO, AND LIVY

Rome was founded in the year 754 B. C. according to the Romans' own chronology. That is what Cicero and Caesar and Livy thought. But we know better, as will appear.

THE ROMAN FORUM IN 1763

The coronation processions between St. Peter's and St. John Lateran passed through the arch of Severus, between two rows of elms, and through the arch of Titus. There were not so many trees in 1763 as are here shown. Piranesi's engraving of a few years earlier is more nearly true to fact.

We shall say that from about 1000 to 600 B.C. the Forum—although not yet entitled to that name—was

Engraving by Piranesi

THE LOST ROMAN FORUM

The elder Piranesi engraved this splendid view of the Campo Vaccino about 1750. Under the building between the arch of Severus and the Column of Phocas were found the famous bas-reliefs of Trajan. The only way out of the Forum at this date, at its upper end, was through the arch of Titus.

THE ROMAN FORUM IN 1829

The three corner columns of the temple of Vespasian, the father of his imperial sons and successors, Titus and Domitian, stand clear from the ground. Between them and the columns of the temple of Saturn the three columns of the temple of Castor may be seen.

THROUGH THE ARCH OF SEVERUS TO THE ARCH OF TITUS

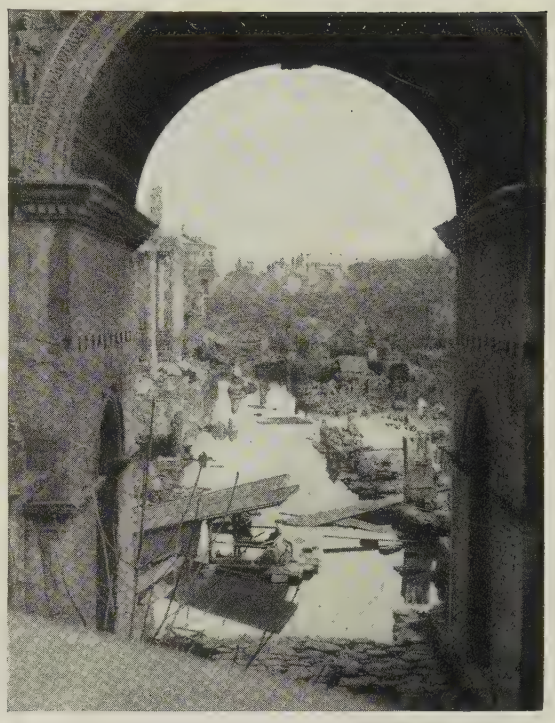
The good condition of the Victories in the spandrels and the other sculpture of the central archway of the arch of Septimius Severus is a pleasing contrast to the shattered state of the historical bas-reliefs over the side arches. One may remember that a statue of Nero, as the Sun-god, stood for some years to the left of where the arch of Titus now is, and was as high as the top of the church tower of S. Francesca Romana.

a lake between three hills, and that the Romans and Sabines by 600 B. C. had not yet begun to realize the potentialities of that pocket valley. In fact they were still using certain parts of the lake shore, along the main road, as a cemetery. But when in some as yet unexplained way the Etruscans from across the Tiber displaced the kings of Rome, who had been alternately Roman and Sabine for several centuries, and placed their Servius Tullius and their two Tarquins on the throne, Rome began almost at once to take on the aspect of a city. The Etruscan kings drained the lake out of the valley and seem to have made friends with the populace by ridding them of the terrors of a goddess who masqueraded as Venus Cloacina. They did it by the simple device of covering the cloaca, or sewer, for that was what the stream into the lake and out of it to the Tiber had become. The Etruscan kings also built on a larger plan, and the Forum began to be a real civic centre. But after the Roman patricians drove the last Tarquin out in 509 B. C. there was very little architectural advance for a century. The Romans dedicated in the Forum a temple to Saturn in 497 B. C. and one to Castor in 484, and they enlarged or rebuilt several others. But these temples were small in comparison with the ones we know of later imperial times. They were Etruscan in style and most of the decoration was of terra cotta brilliantly colored.

HIC MANEBIMUS OPTIME

Fires in all ages have given opportunities for rebuilding on a better scale. Rome has had her full share of sweeping conflagrations. When the Gauls departed in 387 B. C. they left behind them a smoking Rome. The future looked very dark. In fact the story goes that the city fathers even meditated on the advisability of abandoning Rome and moving to some better site. It was clear that the gods of Rome had deserted her. As the senators stood in the Comitium debating the possibility of moving to Veii, across and up the river, a centurion and his soldiers came up to post themselves as a guard. At that tense moment when the balance wavered, the centurion gave an order in a loud voice to his soldiers: "This will be the best place for us to stay." Through the mouth of a chance centurion the gods had spoken in no uncertain way. There was no longer any question of leaving Rome. With other building, that also in the Forum kept pace. A fine temple was built to Concord in 366 B. C. In 338, after a naval victory, the beaks of the captured ships were set as trophies on the front of the *suggestus* or speakers' platform. After that everyone said when some important matter was to be announced or debated: "Let's go down to the Beaks (*Rostra*)"; and rostra it has remained to this day; except that by one of those funny, popular, philological quirks, a rostra, which meant one speaker's platform, got itself reduced in idea, if not in number, to a rostrum.

In 310 B. C. the gilded shields which had been captured from the Samnites were given to the bankers or money changers in the Forum to use for decoration of their booths. And so improvements went steadily along in the Forum until 210 B. C., when another fire came. It was not possible to do much rebuilding until after the end of the war with Carthage.



Photograph by Esther B. Van Deman, 1902

"DEIECTVM MONVMENTA REGIS TEMPLAQVE VESTAE"

The Tiber often rose over its banks and the water backed up into the Forum as it did in antiquity, before the new embankments were finished. When we look through the central archway of the arch of Severus up the Forum we realize the rise to the arch of Titus.

THE BUILDING OF THE FORUM

Rome won control of the western end of the Mediterranean as the result of that Second Punic War. She began soon to have provincial questions to settle. That meant facilities for hearing cases at law. Therefore some of the more unsightly of the markets were ejected from the Forum, and the law buildings, the Basilica Aemilia in 179 B. C. and the Sempronia in 170, were built on opposite sides of the Forum. A fire in 83 B. C. gave the dictator Sulla the opportunity to rebuild most of the Forum. He

Painting by E. Forti

Courtesy of Signora Forti

THE ANTIQUARY'S SHOP

The painter E. Forti, recently deceased, was as good an archaeologist as a painter. This shop interior is perfect. It is not any particular shop, but there is not an article displayed which could not have been in a shop in the upper end of the Roman Forum. The details of dress and the furniture, as well as the election poster painted on the wall across the street, are absolutely correct.

raised its ground level, and did some very fine paving. But it was Julius Caesar who was the great innovator and master Forum builder. We have a letter of Cicero's of the year 54 B. C. that says he and another of Caesar's friends had spent three million dollars, which Caesar had sent them, in widening and improving the Forum. The Comitium had long since outgrown itself, and one of Caesar's many ideas was to transfer the tribal assembly from the Forum to the Campus Martius. He also relieved the Forum Magnum, as the Forum Romanum began to be called, by building the first of a series of five additional fora to relieve the congestion in the Forum itself. He also began his magnificent marble and travertine Basilica Julia and dedicated both it and his Forum on September 26, 46 B. C. before they were quite finished; almost as if he had a premonition that he would not live to see them completed.

The first of the great monuments erected in the Forum specifically as memorials was the temple of Julius the Divine One, which was built so that its front porch, which was used as a rostra for the popular party, was directly over the spot where his body had been burnt on that fateful day of March, 44 B. C. From that time forward, however, the Forum became more and more the proper and suitable place for monuments of a memorial character. So far as the Forum is concerned, the great building age initiated by Augustus and his friends did much more than make restorations. Although there had been a few small arches in the Forum, the

GETA DAMNATVS

Like Caligula and Nero, Geta was damnated and not deified. Among the letters of the short line of the inscription (third from the bottom) can be seen a number of holes. They are the holes in which were rivets that clamped certain bronze letters. After Caracalla killed his brother Geta in 211 A. D. he had the name and title of Geta deleted and words put in to honor Severus and himself. But archaeologists read the original inscription by means of the earlier rivet holes.

great memorial arch to Augustus put up by Tiberius was the one that set the pattern for many more.

The great fire of Nero, which began July 19, 64 A. D., gave the opportunity to the three Flavians, Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian, to make for themselves an enviable record as builders. That fire, however, touched the Forum but slightly. Titus began and Domitian finished a magnificent temple to the Deified Vespasian at the upper end of the Forum beside the temple of Concordia. At about the same time was built the arch of Titus. That arch has the earliest example of the Roman composite capital, and is famous because of its sculptured relief work, particularly the inside panel on which is represented the table of shew-bread, the silver trumpets of the Levites, and the seven-branched golden candlestick which had come from Jerusalem to glorify Vespasian's triumph.

The emperor Hadrian built near the Arch of Titus a double temple to Venus and Rome; then came the temple of Antoninus and Faustina with its matchless portico columns of cipollino marble; Julia Domna, the wife of Septimius Severus, took upon herself the restoration and beautification of the house of the Vestals; and the emperor crowded his own great triple-gated arch in between the Comitium and the Rostra at the other end of the Forum.

THE BLACK STONE

Under the canvas in the foreground behind the men standing, at the right, can be seen a piece of pavement resting on an iron frame-work. This is the famous pavement of black marble over the so-called grave of Romulus. (See page 15.)

A BASILICA WHICH COULD SWALLOW CATHEDRALS

In 283 A. D. there was another great fire. Maxentius took advantage of its ravages to start a basilica which would outdo anything done before him. His successor Constantine completed it. Zola, contemplating its three great arches which are left and which constitute about one-third of the lower

half of the basilica, called them "giant porches." One should visit the court church, which is part of Diocletian's baths, S. Maria degli Angeli, in order to get an idea of what the Basilica of Constantine looked like. One will be amazed at the vast size and height of this great church and will not be surprised to learn that its roofed space has an area of 2300 square yards. But he will be astonished when he learns that the roofed space of the Basilica of Constantine covered over 7000 square yards. If he should read the Huelsen-Carter book on the Forum and look at some of the plates, he will be dumb-founded. The three medieval cathedrals, Limburg, Freiburg, and Thomaskirche in Berlin, could easily be pushed into the nave and the side aisles of the Basilica, its narrow way; and its long way would receive the great cathedral at Cologne. The last of its great interior columns was removed in 1613, and now towers aloft in front of S. Maria Maggiore and bears on its top a bronze statue of the Madonna.

TRAJAN IN THE ROMAN FORUM

In the right foreground can be seen one face of the two famous bas-reliefs which in stone pictures tell the story of two of Trajan's relief measures. One face also can be seen of the two duplicate reliefs of the garlanded boar, ram, and bull which were sacrificed in connection with a lustration of the Roman people.

Note the third line from the bottom of the inscription on the attic of the arch. The shadow shows the deletion of an earlier line even better than it appears on the other side, as explained on page 23.

THE ROMAN FORUM IN MEDIEVAL DAYS

After Constantine moved the government to Byzantium, the name of which was changed in his honor to Constantinople, for several centuries there were bickerings in the Forum between the Old Roman or Pagan party and the New Roman Christian party. The final victory for the Cross came dur-

Painting by E. Forti *Courtesy of Signora Forti*

SVOVETAVRILIA

On two faces of the bas-reliefs of Trajan, which probably were on top of the Rostra, are carved the boar, ram, and bull of a purification ceremony. The painter has reproduced, with marvellous exactitude, such a ceremonial procession as it goes through the Arch of Titus out of the Forum. On the arch relief may be seen the seven-branched golden candlestick, the table of show-bread, and the silver trumpets which were carried in the triumphal procession of the emperor Vespasian.

ing the reign of Gratianus (373–383 A.D.) and the pagan altar of Victory with its gold statue was removed from the Curia. In 410 A. D. first a fire, and then Alaric and his Goths, and then the earthquake in 442 A. D. did great damage to the Forum. There was a short pagan revival when Belisarius was defending Rome, and the temple of Janus was opened in 537 A. D., but it was for the last time. The ancient temples and monuments in the Forum were already being transformed into Christian churches. The first one was dedicated by Pope Felix IV(526-530 A. D.) to the saints Cosmas and Damianus. It was not until 1050 A. D. that the temple of Antoninus and Faustina was made into the church of S. Lorenzo in Miranda.

The first knowledge we have of the Forum after the period of the barbarian invasion is from the oldest Guide Book to Rome. A priest, whose name is unknown, came as a pilgrim about 770 A.D. to Rome from Reichenau on Lake Constance. His authorship of this earliest guide book is concealed under the name Anonymus Einsidlensis. He tells us that only the façades were left of the temples of Vespasian and of Concord, that the base only of the equestrian statue of Constantine remained, and that all metal had disappeared. Canon Benedict's rules of about 1140 A. D. for the canonical processions between St. Peter's and the Lateran tell us that the processions went from the triple arch of Septimius Severus through the Fora of Augustus, Domitian (Nerva), and Vespasian. That means that the centre of the Forum was blocked up, and we may be sure that it was with the fortifications of the Frangipani family. There is a sort of guide book of about 1145 A. D. called the Mirabilia, in which for the first time we find that the Forum has lost its ancient name and become the "Cow Pasture" (*Campo Vaccino*).

In the early years of the fourteenth century Cola di Rienzo prowled about the Forum and found and read many old Roman inscriptions. On the strength of the power assigned in some of them to the former tribunes of the Roman People, Rienzo got himself elected the "Last of the Roman Tribunes." About 1370 the Lateran was enlarged and enriched from material taken from the Basilica Aemilia and the temple of Faustina in the Forum. But except for the destructive years 1540–1550 A. D., when the material from the Forum buildings was used to enlarge St. Peter's and to build the Farnese palace, it was the triumphal entry into Rome in 1536 A. D. of Emperor Charles V after his victory in Tunis that did most to destroy what was left of an-

Engraving by L. Rossini

THREE OUT OF THIRTY-EIGHT

These three upstanding columns of the temple of Castor (or, of the Castors) are perhaps the most outstanding of the ruined beauties of the Roman Forum. They challenge the admiration of every beholder. (See page 17.)

Engraving by Barbazza

THE CAMPO VACCINO IN 1803

The Forum has challenged the best work of many engravers. A comparison of engravings in different years gives the topographer and archaeologist much of his most valuable information.

Drawn by J. Smith; engraved by Byrne & Sparrow

THE UPPER FORUM IN 1792

The columns of the temple of Castor are about two-thirds out of the debris. When the interior of the podium (foundation) was excavated, it was measured in 1903 by the archaeologist Delbrück. He found that the stones were cut exactly one foot high according to the Oscan, not Roman, foot measure. This proved that the foundation stones had been cut before the Twelve Tables of the Roman Law were passed (451–450 B. C.), which specified Roman measures. These columns belong to the Augustan restoration. (See page 17.)

Painting by P. Van Bloemen

THE TEMPLE OF VESTA

This is an artistic reproduction of the round temple of Vesta, which stood between the Atrium Vestae and the Regia, the home of the Pontifex Maximus. For artistic effect the painter has put the top of the arch of Constantine and a bit of the Colosseum in his left background. They are really some 200 yards away beyond the slope on which the arch of Titus stands. (See page 17.)

cient Rome. To make his triumphal way from the Forum to the bridge of S. Angelo, over 200 houses and even two churches were destroyed. The accounts are extant of the Consolazione hospital which show that it made a good revenue by renting the site of Julius Caesar's old basilica to those who wished to dig for marble and and travertine.

Odd as it may seem, in the year 1553 A. D. many people saw and read one line of the inscription on the base of the latest monument set up in the Forum, the column of the emperor Phocas in 608 A. D., but no one, not even the scholars of the day, took the trouble to dig away a few feet of dirt to see what the inscription said, and they assigned many other names to the monument. Of course the gold statue that had been on top of the column had long since disappeared.

The scholars of the 15th century, however, called the Forum the area which lay "between the two triumphal arches," i.e. the arches of Severus and Titus. But along came Ligorio (the architect who did the Villa d'Este at Tivoli), who decided that the Forum lay more toward the Tiber, and to prove his claim, he falsified a number of inscriptions. No one was then enough of an epigraphist to show that his inscriptions were false. They were in good Latin, and their words certainly proved his point.

Photograph by Ralph V. D. Magoffin, 1907

THE ATRIVM VESTAE

The Vestal Virgins had a luxurious house below the Palatine hill and hard by the round temple of the goddess they served. When the Atrium was excavated, the statues of a number of the Vestales Maximae were discovered. Esther B. Van Deman, Ph.D., Carnegie Research Professor in the University of Michigan, a number of whose photographs appear with this article, is the great authority on the House of the Vestals. (See page 17.)

THE RESURRECTION OF THE FORUM

One moonlight night in 1787 the German poet Goethe strolled along in the avenue of elms between the arches of Severus and Titus without having the faintest idea that the ancient Roman Forum was beneath his feet.

It was not until 1801 that any real excavation was done in the Forum. Then a succession of archaeologists began to lay it bare, Carlo Fea from 1801 to 1817, and then Nibby from 1827 to 1834. Little more was done until the Italian government took up the work after 1870. Pietro Rosa, next Rodolfo Lanciani, and from 1898 on, until his death a few years ago, Giacomo Boni, resurrected the Forum. Now the work goes on under the very able direction of Roberto Paribeni.

STIRRING EVENTS IN THE ROMAN FORUM

What a stupendous succession of marvellous sights has that ancient Forum seen! Fire and flood, destruction by earthquake and by war; and yet the *Forum Romanum* ever sprang more beautiful and grander from ashes, from ruins, or from blood.

In 145 B. C. a tribune transferred the legislative assembly from the old Comitium to the Forum and had the speakers on the Rostra face the people, thus turning their back to the Senate House: one of the most stupendous political upheavals ever known. One day in the year 52 B. C. after a fight between the henchmen of Milo and Clodius—one can read Cicero to find out about it—at Bovillae on the Appian way, the body of Clodius was

A CAMPANILE VIEW OF THE ROMAN FORUM

The beholder is looking from the tower of S. Francesca Romana. The three columns of the temple of Castor are between the House of the Vestals and the Basilica of Julius Caesar. The dome of St. Peter's across the Tiber is to the left of the tower on the Tabularium. The tiny object on the skyline near the middle of the picture, is the equestrian statue of Garibaldi on the Janiculum. The American Academy in Rome is directly to its left.

Engraving by G. Vasi, 1753

TEMPLE OF ANTONINUS AND FAUSTINA

The cipollino columns with the iron fence intercolumnations constituted the front porch of the medieval church of S. Lorenzo in Miranda. The houses between the temple and the Arch of Severus cover the ancient Basilica Aemilia.

carried the 11 miles into Rome and there in the Forum his body was burned. A few years later, after Caesar was done to death on the Ides of March, 44 B. C., his body too was carried into the Forum and there, after the impassioned address of Mark Antony, it was burned. Over the spot a column

PREHISTORIC CEMETERY IN THE FORUM

This discovery in 1902 was the greatest of Boni's many contributions to the history of the Roman Forum. Cremation and inhumation graves were found together, proving that two peoples with different burial customs were living in harmonious proximity. Objects found in the graves threw the date of the founding of Rome back two or three centuries earlier than the traditional date of 754 B. C. (See page 39.)

The marks of posts and boards used to hold the concrete of the foundations of the porticus of Nero, until it set, are in the background. The bottoms of two of the posts can still be seen in the grooves at the left.

and an altar were erected, but the consul Dolabella had them removed. Two years later, however, the triumvirs, his grandnephew Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus built a temple to the Deified Julius. At the age of 33, there in the Forum, the young quaestor Julius Caesar had in the year 68 B. C. eulogized his aunt Julia, the widow of Sulla's opponent Marius, the Great Commoner; there he eulogized his departed wife Cornelia, the daughter of Cinna, and in both funeral speeches he as much as claimed kinship to kings and gods. He was one of the boldest men that ever lived, and by the pure effrontery of success he made himself an acknowledged god.

From the Rostra in the Forum on November 9, 63 B. C. the great orator Cicero spoke to the people on the departure of Catiline. He, the chief exponent of old Republicanism, could never have dreamed that a century later, before him on the ridge near where the Arch of Titus now is, there would stand a great statue of Nero the Sun God, 95 feet high, with seven sunbeams, each 23 feet long, radiating from his head.

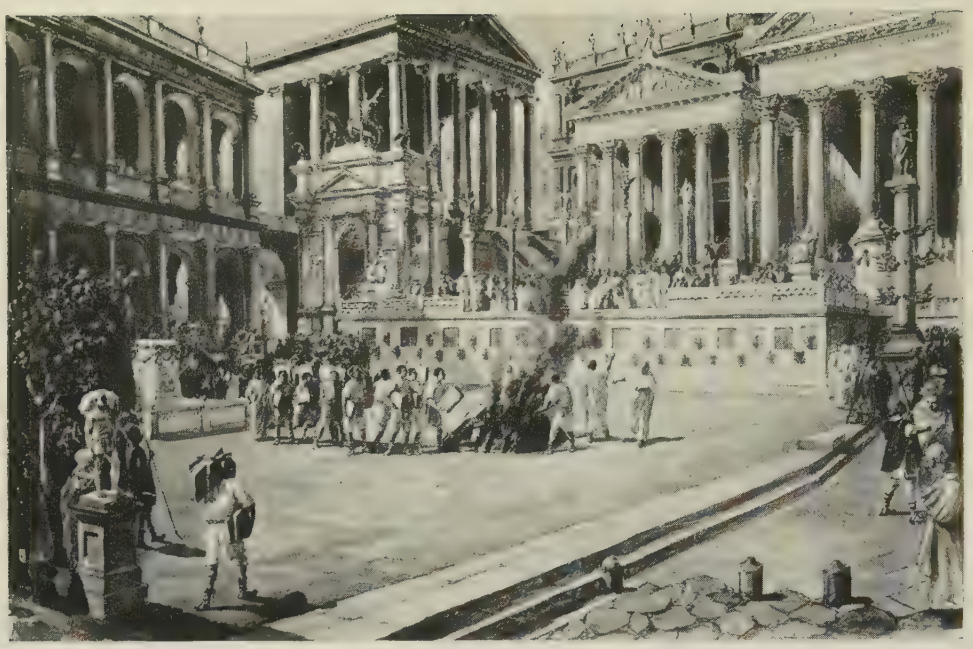
In 66 A. D. on that same Rostra in the Forum sat Nero to receive the

homage of the Parthian king Tiridates; a few years later Vespasian and Titus came through the Forum in one of the most magnificent triumphal processions that the world has ever seen; out in front of the Rostra Trajan oversaw the bonfire in which were destroyed the wax tablets which contained the lists of provincial taxes; in 193 A. D. the emperor Pertinax was honored in the Forum with splendid ceremonies which the historian Dio, who was present, described as follows: In a small structure which had been built upon the Rostra stood a couch of gold and ivory "covered with purple cloth worked with gold: on the couch lay a wax figure of Pertinax, clad in the garb of triumph, and, as though the emperor slept, a beautiful young slave boy was engaged in keeping the flies away with a fan of peacocks' feathers. The emperor and we senators and our wives came to the ceremony in garments of mourning; the women took their places under the porticos (of the Basilicas), and we under the open sky. Then the funeral procession began; first the statues of all the famous Romans of the old days; then choruses of boys and men, singing a funeral hymn in honour of Pertinax; and then bronze statues representing all the provinces of the Roman empire, each one in the national costume. Then followed the subordinate officials, for example, lictors, clerks, and heralds; then again statues of famous men, those who had won fame by great deeds or discoveries. Then came armed soldiery, on foot and on horse, and then race-horses too: then the funeral gifts which the emperor, we senators with our wives, the knights, the citizens, the guilds and the associations had presented. Finally came an altar covered with gold, and decorated with ivory and precious stones from India. After the procession had passed by, Severus mounted the Rostra and made a eulogy on Pertinax. The emperor's speech was frequently interrupted by manifestations of applause or of sorrow for Pertinax; and at the end the applause was loud. Then when the bier was about to be carried out great weeping and wailing ensued. The bier was carried from the catafalque by the pontifices and the magistrates, not only those who were at present in office but those who had been appointed for the following year; then it was given over to be borne by men appointed from among the knights. We senators walked in front of the body sorrowing and wailing; behind the bier came the emperor, and so the procession moved to the Campus Martius," where (on Monte Citorio) the ceremony of cremation and consecration took place.

Photograph by Esther B. Van Deman, 1903

UP THE FORUM

The steps in the foreground lead up to the Basilica Aemilia. The holes in the side wall of the temple of Faustina were made by Vandals searching for the bronze clamps that held the stones together. The sloping roof in front of the temple covers the ancient ninth century B. C. necropolis discovered by Boni in 1902.



G. Lessi, painter *G. Gatteschi, archaeologist*

THE TAX ACCOUNTS ARE BURNED IN THE FORUM, 117 A. D.

The column of Phocas on its high base, as seen in the lower picture, was not yet erected in 117 A. D. The burning of the provincial tax accounts under the eye of the emperor Trajan, as he sat with his court on the Rostra, was one of that emperor's most popular relief measures. The occasion was commemorated in a stone bas-relief, which is seen on the left balustrade in the lower picture.

HOW MODERNS KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE FORUM

It is frequently asked how one knows so much about a place like the Roman Forum of which now only the shattered ruins remain. That is a fair question, and deserves a full answer.

One of the earliest accounts of the Forum is by the Roman writer of comedy, Plautus, who in a play called the *Curculio* mentions where the riff-raff and the usurers and the spend-thrifts, etc. are to be found, and in doing so locates them near or behind or in one of the buildings in the Forum. Then, more than a century later, the poet Horace, in telling about an encounter with a bore who had attached himself to him, mentions the buildings in the Forum which they passed. Nearly a century later the poet Statius, who wrote a poem addressed to Domitian on the occasion of the dedication of the great equestrian statue set up by the Senate to the emperor after his German campaign of 91 A.D., tells what buildings in the Forum the emperor could see as he sat there on his war horse. Then in the background of the two sculptured bas-reliefs of the balustrades of Trajan can be recognized the buildings down both sides of the Forum and back of the Rostra, which make a panorama of the Forum of the 2nd century A. D. There is also the bas-relief on the monument of the Haterii that depicts the buildings along part of the Sacra Via. Also on the Arch of Constantine there is a bas-relief which shows the front of the Rostra with arches of buildings on either side. Part of a building of the Augustan age at the foot of the Palatine hill had been turned into the church of S. Maria Antiqua. It was haunted through the Middle Ages. The modern excavators found some paintings on the walls. Among them was one which showed a Pope with a square blue nimbus, and beside him letters which could be read as ADRIANUS. There was a Pope Hadrian I (772–793 A.D.). But was the painting done during his life time or later? The square nimbus showed that it was while he was still alive, for that was the traditional Byzantine way of indicating that the person wearing that sort of nimbus was still alive. Literature said that everyone threw a coin once a year into the *Lacus Curtius* in fulfilment of an annual vow for the welfare of the emperor Augustus. It was also known that near that lake there were a statue of Marsyas and three sacred trees, and that they were close to the praetorian tribunal. In 1906 an aviator flying over the Forum took a photograph. When the picture was made from his negative, there, as clear as you please, were some letters which gave the name of Lucius Naevius Surdinus the praetor. These letters were simply gashes in the Forum pavement to all visitors who walked calmly over them. When examined it was clear that bronze letters had been fixed in the cuttings in the pavement. They had been taken away centuries ago because of their metal value. That they are quite impossible to recognize the author knows. Only a few months ago when he was taking friends on several occasions through the Forum he had them stand in or on these letters and made trial of their legibility. But no one ever saw them until they were found in the aerial photograph. Now no one ever sees them until they are pointed out.

Reconstruction by G. Gatteschi

THE CURIA AND THE BASILICA AEMILIA

The steps at the left lead up to the floor of the Rostra from which Cicero spoke. Beyond it and the beaked column is the façade of the Curia, or Senate House. The building with the two rows of arches is the Basilica Aemilia. The six columns of the temple of Faustina which show in the picture of the Forum in its present state can hardly be seen in the restoration, but they belong to the building behind the fourth memorial column.

In the right foreground the bases of the pillars of the Basilica Julia are shown much as they are today. Of course the Basilica is left unrestored purposely in order to give an unobstructed view across the Forum. (See page 8.)

Engraving by L. Rossini

THE FORUM TOWARD THE CAPITOLINE

The engraver Rossini has caught the grandeur of the upper end of the Forum in his restoration. Over the temple of Saturn (with the long base) rise buildings on the Capitoline. Over the temples of Vespasian (which Rossini calls the temple of Jupiter Tonans) and of Concord, runs the fine arcade of the Tabularium. There is real splendor in the engraver's work.

WHY WE OF TODAY KNOW MORE ABOUT THE FORUM THAN CAESAR DID

It was said above that Caesar and Cicero and Livy believed that Rome was founded in 754 B. C., but that we of today know better. That may sound strange. Perhaps the facts will appear stranger still.

The date 509 B. C. for the founding of the Roman Republic seems not to be far wrong. There were seven kings of Rome before that. Figuring them at a reign of 35 years each, that carried a date back to Romulus of 754 B. C. Then it was only about 100 years or so on back to Aeneas. But when the Greeks came to Rome and said that their history proved that the Trojan war ended in 1180 B. C., they then asked what Aeneas had been doing all those 300 years between the time he escaped from Troy and the time he landed in Italy and married Lavinia, the daughter of King Latinus. It embarrassed the Romans very much; so much so, in fact, that some of their historians got together and made up out of whole cloth—cloth of wood, however, not gold—a list of 12 kings back of Romulus, to whom they gave the general family name of Silvii, "Woodmen."

The Romans' shamefaced attempt to provide themselves with ancestors was more nearly right than they knew.

In 1902 Boni dug a hole by the side of the Sacra Via near the temple of Faustina. He discovered a number of graves of both the inhumation and cremation types. Along with the bones or ashes of the dead were many small articles of household and personal ware clearly of a date earlier than anything that had ever been found in the Forum. If only there had been some way to date the things! This piece of cemetery was a considerable distance from the gates of both early settlements, the Sabine and Roman. Doubtless the people had begun first to bury just outside the gates and it must have taken several hundred years to get down as far as where the cemetery was which Commendatore Boni had found.

Not long after this find, the inhabitants of a little town some ten miles from Rome wanted to pave their streets. They went therefore below their town and began to dig under a stream of lava in order to break off stone from the bottom of it, because that is the least porous and the hardest. The report was that they found under the lava stream a cemetery in which were many objects, vases, pins, rings, etc. exactly like those which had been found in the cemetery in the Roman Forum. That report was exposed as untrue. But things have been found under the lava at various places which were like those in the Forum cemetery. Geologists proved that the lava had run down about 900 B. C. The Forum cemetery, therefore, was about the same date, and the settlements on the Palatine and Quirinal were still older.

All knowledge of those very early days in the valley where later the Forum grew had been forgotten, and Caesar, Cicero, and Livy knew absolutely nothing about those early days. The archaeologists of the Forum threw Roman history back several hundred years. They have thus added still more to the antiquity of that marvelous Greatest Small Spot on Earth.

You have dreamed of it often in fancy:
That greatest small spot on this earth;
And have wondered by what necromancy
Its fall has but heightened its worth.

But when you have once seen its glory,
Have pondered its rise and its fall,
Heard its man-shattered, time-battered story:
Then forever you're under its thrall.

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